

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/661,786 Confirmation No. : 7261
Applicant : RALF RINGLER, et al.
Filed : September 15, 2003
TC/A.U. : 2877
Examiner : To Be Assigned
Docket No. : 028987.52486US
Customer No. : 23911
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECOGNITION OF
COLOR BRIGHTNESS VARIATIONS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of EP 0286994 and WO 98/08078 to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

English abstracts summarizing the disclosures of DE 3813239, DE 19820536 and DE 19839882 are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of

Application No. 10/661,786
Information Disclosure Statement

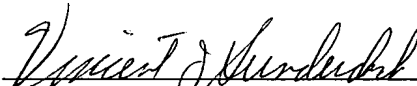
a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

February 10, 2004



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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/661,786		
		Filing Date	September 15, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	RALF RINGLER		
		Art Unit	2877		
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	028987.52486US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	AA	US- 5686987		11-11-1997	HEWITT et al.	
	AB	US- 5636024		06-03-1997	CROOKHAM et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AC	DE-10103555-A1	08-01-2002	VOLKSWAGEN AG		
	AD	DE-19839882	04-06-2000	WILLING GMBH		AB
	AE	DE-19830745-C1	03-16-2000	BASF COATINGS AG		
	AF	DE-19820536	10-07-1999	PORSCHE AG		AB
	AG	WO-9808078-A1	02-26-1998	DR. ING. WILLING GMBH		
	AH	DE-3813239	11-02-1989	DAIMLER BENZ AG		AB
	AI	EP-0286994-A2	10-19-1986	DAIMLER-BENZ AG		
	AJ	DE-3418317-C1	01-31-1985	DAIMLER-BENZ AG		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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